

Robb C. Adkins (SBN 194576)  
radkins@winston.com  
Krista M. Enns (SBN 206430)  
kenns@winston.com  
Seth Weisburst (SBN 259323)  
sweisburst@winston.com  
**WINSTON & STRAWN LLP**  
101 California Street, 35th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111-5840  
Telephone: (415) 591-1000  
Facsimile: (415) 591-1400

Lawrence M. Hill (*pro hac vice*)  
lhill@winston.com  
Alexa Perlman (*pro hac vice*)  
aperlman@winston.com  
WINSTON & STRAWN LLP  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166-4193  
Telephone: (212) 294-6700  
Facsimile: (212) 294-4700

Steffen N. Johnson (*pro hac vice*)  
sjohnson@winston.com  
Lowell D. Jacobson (*pro hac vice*)  
ljacobson@winston.com  
Adrienne Rosenbluth (*pro hac vice*)  
arosenbluth@winston.com  
WINSTON & STRAWN LLP  
1700 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006-3817  
Telephone: (202) 282-5000  
Facsimile: (202) 282-5100

Brooke Goldstein (*pro hac vice*)  
brooke@thelawfareproject.org  
Amanda Berman (*pro hac vice*)  
amanda@thelawfareproject.org  
**THE LAWFARE PROJECT**  
633 Third Avenue, 21st Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Telephone: (212) 339-6995

Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
JACOB MANDEL, CHARLES VOLK,  
LIAM KERN, SHACHAR BEN-DAVID,  
MICHAELA GERSHON, MASHA MERKULOVA,  
and STEPHANIE ROSEKIND

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JACOB MANDEL, CHARLES VOLK, LIAM KERN, SHACHAR BEN-DAVID, MICHAELA GERSHON, MASHA MERKULOVA, and STEPHANIE ROSEKIND.

## Plaintiffs,

V.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY, RABAB ABDULHADI, in her individual capacity, and LESLIE WONG, MARY ANN BEGLEY, LUOLUO HONG, LAWRENCE BIRELLO, REGINALD PARSON, OSVALDO DEL VALLE, KENNETH MONTEIRO, BRIAN STUART, and MARK JARAMILLA, in their official and individual capacities.

### Defendants.

Case No. 3:17-CV-03511-WHO

**PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF MOTION  
AND MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE  
SUPPLEMENT TO SECOND AMENDED  
COMPLAINT [ECF 145] PURSUANT TO  
FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL  
PROCEDURE 15(D)**

Date: July 18, 2018

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Courtroom 2 (17th floor)

Judge: William H. Orrick

1                   **NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR LEAVE TO SUPPLEMENT**

2                   **SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT**

3                   PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on July 18, 2018 at 2:00 p.m., before the Honorable William  
 4 H. Orrick III in Courtroom 2 on the 17th Floor of the above-entitled Court, Plaintiffs Jacob Mandel,  
 5 Charles Volk, Liam Kern, Shachar Ben-David, Michaela Gershon, Masha Merkulova, and Stephanie  
 6 Rosekind (collectively “Plaintiffs”) will and hereby do move pursuant to Rule 15(d) of the Federal  
 7 Rules of Civil Procedure for leave to file the proposed Supplement to the Second Amended  
 8 Complaint (attached hereto as Exhibit A). This motion is based on this Notice of Motion and  
 9 Motion, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the Court’s June 6, 2018 Order (ECF 144), all  
 10 pleadings and papers on file, and such other matters as may be presented to this Court.

11                   **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

12                   **I. INTRODUCTION**

13                   Plaintiffs seek leave to supplement the operative Second Amended Complaint (the “SAC,”  
 14 ECF 145) by alleging additional relevant facts in support of Plaintiffs’ claims under Title VI of the  
 15 Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* (the Seventh and Eighth Causes of Action). The  
 16 facts Plaintiffs include in the proposed Supplement further demonstrate Defendants San Francisco  
 17 State University’s (“SFSU”) and Board of Trustees of the California State University’s (“CSU”)  
 18 (collectively, the “Title VI Defendants”) continuous and pervasively hostile climate towards both  
 19 Jewish students (the Seventh Cause of Action) and Israeli students (the Eighth Cause of Action) on  
 20 the basis of their religious, ethnic, ancestral and national backgrounds. As explained in the proposed  
 21 Supplement (Ex. A, Proposed Supplement), these allegations of the Title VI Defendants’ conduct are  
 22 based on Plaintiff Michaela Gershon’s experiences which occurred after Plaintiffs filed the Second  
 23 Amended Complaint on March 29, 2018.<sup>1</sup> *See* Ex. A. Accordingly, with this Motion, Plaintiffs seek  
 24 to supplement their complaint to introduce these facts pursuant to Rule 15(d) of the Federal Rules of  
 25 Civil Procedure.

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27                   

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs filed the First Amended Complaint on March 29, 2018 as ECF 125. On June 6, 2018,  
 28 pursuant to Stipulation and Order (ECF 144), a corrected Second Amended Complaint was filed  
*nunc pro tunc* as ECF 145.

1           **II. STATEMENT OF ISSUES TO BE DECIDED**

2           1. Should the Court permit Plaintiffs to supplement the SAC with the proposed  
 3 Supplement attached as Exhibit A, which sets out events related to Plaintiffs' Title VI claims that  
 4 happened after the date Plaintiffs filed the SAC?

5           **III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

6           On March 29, 2018, Plaintiffs filed the SAC. ECF 125. On April 27, 2018 and April 30,  
 7 2018, Defendants filed motions to dismiss the SAC which are set for hearing on July 18, 2018. ECF  
 8 131, 136. During April and May 2018, after Plaintiffs' filed the SAC, Plaintiff Michaela Gershon  
 9 experienced certain events during the Spring semester at SFSU which form a further part of the  
 10 Seventh and Eighth Causes of Action in the SAC asserted against SFSU and CSU.

11           Given the limited scope of the proposed Supplement and the fact that its allegations consist  
 12 entirely of events which occurred after Plaintiffs filed the SAC, Plaintiffs asked SFSU and CSU if  
 13 they would stipulate to the filing of the Supplement, which would obviate the need for the Court to  
 14 decide this as a contested motion. On June 13, 2018, SFSU and CSU informed Plaintiffs that they  
 15 refused to stipulate. This Motion followed.

16           **IV. LEGAL STANDARD**

17           Rule 15(d) of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure, "Supplemental Pleadings," states that  
 18 "[o]n motion and reasonable notice, the court may, on just terms, permit a party to serve a  
 19 supplemental pleading setting out any transaction, occurrence, or event that happened after the date  
 20 of the pleading to be supplemented." The Rule states further that "[t]he court may permit  
 21 supplementation even though the original pleading is defective in stating a claim or defense." *Id.*  
 22 Rule 15(d) "is intended to give district courts broad discretion in allowing supplemental pleadings.  
 23 *Keith v. Volpe*, 858 F.2d 467, 473 (9th Cir. 1988). "The rule is a tool of judicial economy and  
 24 convenience . . . [and] [i]ts use is therefore favored." *Id.* "Rule 15(d) enables a court to award  
 25 complete relief, or more nearly complete relief, in one action and to avoid the cost, delay and waste  
 26 of separate actions." *Yates v. Auto City 76*, 299 F.R.D. 611, 613 (N.D. Cal. 2013) (quoting *Keith*,  
 27 858 F.2d at 473). Facts alleged in supplemental pleadings need only "some relation" to the original

1 pleading and do not have to “arise out of the same transaction” of the original complaint.” *Keith*,  
 2 858 F.2d at 474.

3 In determining whether to allow leave to supplement under Rule 15(d), the Court should  
 4 apply “the same as the standard for granting . . . a motion under Rule 15(a).” *Id* at 614. The “factors  
 5 used to evaluate the propriety of a motion for leave to amend (and thus, a motion to supplement) are:  
 6 (1) undue delay, (2) bad faith, (3) repeated failures of previous amendments, (4) undue prejudice to  
 7 the opposing party, and (5) futility of the amendment.” *Lyon v. U.S. Immigration & Customs Enft*,  
 8 308 F.R.D. 203, 214 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (citing *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962)). “Absent  
 9 prejudice or a ‘strong showing’ of any one [of these factors], there is a presumption in favor of  
 10 granting leave to supplement.” *Id*.

## 11 **V. THE COURT SHOULD GRANT LEAVE TO FILE THE PROPOSED SUPPLEMENT**

12 The court should grant Plaintiffs’ Motion because, as explained below, Plaintiffs’ proposed  
 13 Supplement satisfies all of the factors courts consider when determining whether to grant leave to  
 14 file a supplemental pleading under Rule 15(d).

### 15 **A. The proposed Supplement adds subsequently-arising facts that directly relate to 16 the operative Second Amended Complaint.**

17 The Court should grant Plaintiffs’ Motion because the facts alleged in the proposed  
 18 Supplement are closely related to the facts alleged in Plaintiffs’ SAC. The proposed Supplement  
 19 does not add new parties, claims, or legal theories. Rather, the proposed Supplement provides  
 20 additional facts related to Defendants’ continued discrimination against Plaintiffs on the basis of  
 21 Plaintiffs’ Jewish and Israeli backgrounds in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which is  
 22 set forth in the Seventh and Eighth Causes of Action in Plaintiffs’ SAC. *See SAC ¶¶ 4, 19-20, 39-*  
 23 *51, 86-111, 200-31.* Specifically, the proposed Supplement provides additional facts as follows:

- 24 • That Plaintiff Michaela Gershon was singled out and harassed by her professor in her  
 25 South Asian studies class (offered under the curriculum of the College of Ethnic  
 26 Studies (“COES”)) on the basis of her Jewish and Israeli background;
- 27 • That Michaela’s professor, Simmy Makhijani, specifically targeted Ms. Gershon on  
 28 the basis of her Jewish and Israeli background, consistent with the anti-Semitic and

1 anti-Israeli attitudes and behaviors that pervade COES and SFSU in general;

- 2
- 3 • That Prof. Makhijani used classical and contemporary anti-Semitic tropes to harass
  - 4 and intimidate Ms. Gershon and attempt, unsuccessfully, to pressure her into
  - 5 renouncing a core component of her Jewish identity;
  - 6 • That, as a result of this harassment, Ms. Gershon's academic and experiential
  - 7 experience at SFSU was irreversibly polluted: Ms. Gershon was unable to engage in
  - 8 and benefit from the same educational opportunities and discussions as the other
  - 9 students, continually felt unwelcome and attacked in class, had to subject herself to
  - 10 the hostile environment of her class in order to ensure a passing grade, and has been
  - 11 made aware that she is fully unwelcome as an Israeli and a Jew in COES, a college at
  - 12 SFSU which offers classes she finds interesting but in which she is unwilling to
  - 13 subject herself to further targeting and discrimination.

14 Each of the facts alleged in the proposed Supplement occurred after Plaintiffs filed the SAC  
 15 on March 29, 2018, as required by Rule 15(d). Further, each of the facts alleged in the SAC relates  
 16 directly to Plaintiffs' Seventh and Eighth Causes of Action against the Title VI Defendants because  
 17 they support the claims that SFSU and CSU have directly discriminated against Title VI Plaintiff  
 18 Michaela Gershon and have also failed to prevent the harassment and intimidation of, and  
 19 discrimination against her by SFSU faculty. The facts alleged in the proposed Supplement also  
 20 relate directly to these causes of action because they support the claims that Title VI defendants  
 21 acted with deliberate indifference towards the pervasively hostile, anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli  
 22 environment that Title VI Jewish Plaintiffs and Title VI Israeli Plaintiffs face at SFSU. Moreover,  
 23 the facts alleged in the proposed Supplement reinforce that the hostile environment at SFSU is  
 24 sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive that it deprives Title VI Plaintiffs of equal access to the  
 25 educational opportunities and benefits provided by CSU. *See SAC ¶¶ 200-31.* The facts alleged in  
 26 the proposed Supplement need only "some relation" to the SAC for the Court to grant Plaintiffs'  
 27 Motion. *Keith*, 858 F.2d at 474. Here, each of the facts alleged in the Supplement are inextricably  
 28 linked to Plaintiffs' Title VI claims. Therefore, based on the Court's broad discretion in allowing

1 supplemental pleadings and the favored use of Rule 15(d), *id.* at 473, the Court should grant  
 2 Plaintiffs leave to file the proposed Supplement to the SAC.

3       **B. The proposed Supplement will not cause undue delay.**

4 “[A] party unduly delays seeking amendment by failing to seek amendment reasonably  
 5 promptly after it ‘knew or should have known’ that amendment was called for.” *Fresno Unified Sch.  
 6 Dist. v. K.U. ex rel. A.D.U.*, 980 F.Supp.2d 1160, 1176 (E.D. Cal. 2013). The proposed Supplement  
 7 identifies additional facts that occurred in April and May of 2018—Ms. Gershon’s class at issue in  
 8 the proposed Supplement only recently concluded at the end of the spring semester at SFSU.  
 9 Further, the proposed Supplement would not lead to future delays, as a trial date is not yet assigned  
 10 and discovery has not begun. Plaintiffs have noticed this Motion for July 18, 2018, the same date  
 11 the Parties are scheduled to attend the hearing for Defendants’ motions to dismiss the SAC.

12 Accordingly, Plaintiffs have acted promptly by moving to bolster the Second Amended  
 13 Complaint with the proposed Supplement, which includes some additional facts that occurred less  
 14 than a month before Plaintiffs filed this Motion. Although there has been no delay here, even  
 15 “undue delay, by itself, is not enough to deny an amendment to a pleading, there must also be, e.g.,  
 16 prejudice, bad faith, or futility.” *Yates*, 299 F.R.D at 614 (citing *Bowles v. Reade*, 198 F.3d 752, 758  
 17 (9th Cir. 1999)). As explained further below, none of these factors are present. Therefore, the Court  
 18 should grant Plaintiffs’ Motion.

19       **C. The proposed Supplement is not in bad faith.**

20 Plaintiffs have not acted in bad faith. “Bad faith exists when the moving party seeks to  
 21 amend merely to prolong the litigation by adding ‘new but baseless legal theories.’” *Fresno Unified  
 22 Sch. Dist.*, 980 F Supp.2d at 1178 (quoting *Griggs v. Pace American Group, Inc.*, 170 F.3d 877, 881  
 23 (9th Cir. 1999)). Examples of bad faith include “a party mak[ing] a claim without alleging any  
 24 newly discovered facts, mak[ing] a tactical decision to omit a claim to avoid summary judgment, or  
 25 includ[ing] a claim to harass or burden the other party.” *Id.* at 1179.

26 There is no bad faith here. Plaintiffs’ proposed Supplement updates the SAC by setting forth  
 27 new facts that occurred after Plaintiffs filed the SAC and directly support Plaintiffs’ Title VI claims  
 28 (as discussed above). The proposed Supplement does not add legal theories, much less any baseless

1 ones. Rather, the Supplement adds to Plaintiffs' consistent allegations that Defendants SFSU and  
 2 CSU have engaged in ongoing discrimination and fostered, cultivated and endorsed a pervasively  
 3 hostile, anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli environment at SFSU. *See SAC ¶¶ 200-31.* Plaintiffs' proposed  
 4 Supplement therefore squarely falls within the purpose of Rule 15(d). *See Kroll v. Incline Vill. Gen.*  
 5 *Imp. Dist.*, 598 F.Supp.2d 1118, 1124 (explaining that “[t]he appropriate procedure for a plaintiff to  
 6 follow to bring a case up to date with events that have taken place since the filing of an original  
 7 pleading is to file a supplemental pleading pursuant to . . . Rule 15(d)).” Accordingly, Plaintiffs'  
 8 Motion should be granted because the proposed Supplement is not in bad faith.

9           **D. Defendants will not be unduly prejudiced.**

10           The court should grant Plaintiffs' Motion because Defendants will not suffer any undue  
 11 prejudice. Of the factors courts consider in determining when to grant a party leave to supplement,  
 12 “consideration of prejudice to the opposing party . . . carries the greatest weight.” *Nat. Res. Def.*  
 13 *Council v. Kempthorne*, 2016 WL 8678051, at \*9 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 22, 2016) (citing *Eminence*  
 14 *Capital, LLC v. Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d 1048, 1052 (9th Cir. 2003)). “Undue prejudice is not mere  
 15 harm to the non-movant but a denial of the opportunity to present facts or evidence which would  
 16 have been offered had amendment been timely.” *Id.* at \*14. Courts will “evaluate[] prejudice in  
 17 terms of *e.g.*, whether discovery cut-offs have passed, how close trial is, and so forth.” *Yates*, 299  
 18 F.R.D. at 614.

19           Here, Defendants will suffer no prejudice, let alone undue prejudice. As discussed above,  
 20 discovery has not yet begun and no trial date has been set. Defendants will have ample time to  
 21 address the new facts presented in the proposed Supplement. *See id.* (explaining that a defendant  
 22 could not argue undue prejudice because several months of discovery remained and the trial date  
 23 was set for several additional months later). Further, the proposed Supplement is only four pages  
 24 long, and only impacts claims brought against two Defendants. The Title VI Defendants will have  
 25 two weeks to consider and respond to these allegations before filing any response to this Motion, and  
 26 more than five weeks to prepare to address both Title VI claims, including the facts alleged in the  
 27 supplement, during oral argument on July 18, 2018. Also, if necessary, the Court “may order that the  
 28 opposing party plead to the supplemental pleading within a specified time.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(d).

1       Finally, the proposed Supplement will not unduly prejudice Defendants because the proposed  
 2 Supplement provides additional facts of continuing conduct related to the Plaintiffs' already-asserted  
 3 Seventh and Eighth causes of action. *See SAC ¶¶ 200-31.* Accordingly, Defendants were already on  
 4 notice of Plaintiffs' Title VI discrimination allegations from Plaintiffs' Second Amended Complaint.  
 5 *See id.* For all of these reasons, Plaintiffs' proposed Supplement does not unduly prejudice  
 6 Defendants, and lack of such prejudice weighs heavily in favor of granting Plaintiffs' Motion.

7       **E.      The proposed Supplement is not futile.**

8       "[A] proposed amendment is futile only if no set of facts can be proved under the amendment  
 9 to the pleadings that would constitute a valid and sufficient claim or defense." *Lyon, supra*, 308  
 10 F.R.D. 203 at 216. Courts consider allegations of the supplemental complaint "together with the  
 11 original allegations" contained in the prior operative complaint. *See Polansky v. Exec. Health Res., Inc.*, No. CV 12-4239, 2018 WL 1403433, at \*5 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 19, 2018). The proposed  
 12 Supplement, in conjunction with Plaintiffs' existing SAC, provides additional facts illustrating  
 13 Defendants' ongoing wrongful conduct described in the Seventh and Eighth  
 14 Causes of Action, Plaintiffs' Title VI claims. *See SAC ¶¶ 4, 19-20, 39-51, 86-111, 200-31.*  
 15 Specifically, the conduct of an SFSU professor teaching in the College of Ethnic Studies, leveraging  
 16 her position of power and invoking age-old anti-Semitic tropes to target and malign a Jewish and  
 17 Israeli student, is consistent with the narrative and environment that exists in COES and on SFSU's  
 18 campus more broadly as alleged in the operative SAC. *See Ex. A.* Further, while Plaintiffs have  
 19 sufficiently pleaded each of their causes of action against Defendants in the SAC, even if that were  
 20 not the case, "[t]he court may permit supplementation even though the original pleading is defective  
 21 in stating a claim." Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(d). Plaintiffs' SAC does not depend on the additional facts  
 22 alleged in the proposed Supplement—however, these additional facts regarding events that occurred  
 23 after the SAC present the precise circumstances for which Rule 15(d) supplementation is available.  
 24 For these reasons, futility is not an appropriate ground to deny Plaintiffs' Motion.

1 VI. CONCLUSION

2 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant their Motion to  
3 for leave to file the proposed Supplement to the SAC.

4 Dated: June 13, 2018

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP

5 By: /s/ Seth Weisburst

6 Robb C. Adkins  
7 Lawrence M. Hill (*pro hac vice*)  
8 Krista M. Enns  
9 Steffen N. Johnson (*pro hac vice*)  
10 Lowell Jacobson (*pro hac vice*)  
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